

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 has been amended to change the lower occurrence of reference numeral 1 to "11" in accordance with the disclosure in the specification at page 9, line 7.

Submitted herewith are a corrected sheet of formal drawing which incorporates the amendment and an annotated sheet showing the changes made thereto. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment to the drawings be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby a first image carrier unit holder cover is configured to hold a first side surface portion of the

image carrier unit, a second image carrier unit holder cover is configured to hold a second side surface portion of the image carrier unit, a first developer unit holder cover is configured to hold a first side surface portion of the developer unit, and a second developer unit holder cover is configured to hold a second side surface portion of the developer unit. In addition, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby first and second projecting members are arranged at the first and second image carrier unit holder covers, respectively, and first and second recess portions are formed in the first and second developer unit holder covers, respectively, wherein the first projecting member is engaged with the first recess portion and the second projecting member is engaged with the second recess portion by moving the projecting members with respect to the recess portions along a longitudinal direction of the image carrier unit and the developer unit. See Figs. 4 and 5 and the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 11, line 1 to page 13, line 13.

In addition, claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend from claim 1, and claims 1-5 have also been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

Still further, new claims 6 and 7 have been added to recite the subject matter of claims 4 and 5 depending from claim 2.

New claims 8 and 9, depending from claims 4 and 6, have been added based on the disclosure in the specification at page 15, line 22 to page 16, line 19. See also Fig. 6.

New claim 10 has been added to recite an image forming apparatus comprising a process unit, corresponding to the process unit of claim 1, and a fixing unit configured to fix a developer image on a sheet material.

New claims 11-14 have been added to recite the subject matter of claims 4, 5, 8 and 2, respectively, depending from claim 10.

And new claims 15 and 16, depending from claims 2 and 14, have been added based on the disclosure in the specification at page 14, line 11 to page 15, line 7. See also Fig. 7.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-5 and the addition of claims 6-16 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,163,666 ("Hosokawa et al") and claims 2, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Hosokawa et al with USP 6,163,665 ("Watanabe et al") or USP 6,266,502 ("Matsuzaki et al"). These rejections,

however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1 and 2 and new independent claim 10, a process unit comprises an image carrier unit configured to mount an image carrier, which carries an electrostatic latent image, onto a casing, and a developer unit configured to mount a developer roller, which develops the electrostatic latent image, onto the casing. A first image carrier unit holder cover is configured to hold a first side surface portion of the image carrier unit, and a second image carrier unit holder cover is configured to hold a second side surface portion of the image carrier unit. Similarly, a first developer unit holder cover is configured to hold a first side surface portion of the developer unit, and a second developer unit holder cover is configured to hold a second side surface portion of the developer unit.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 2 and 10, first and second projecting members arranged at the first and second image carrier unit holder covers, respectively, and first and second recess portions formed in the first and second developer unit holder covers, respectively. And according to the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 2 and 10, the first projecting member is engaged with the first recess portion and the second

projecting member is engaged with the second recess portion by moving the projecting members with respect to the recess portions along a longitudinal direction of the image carrier unit and the developer unit. As recited in independent claims 1, 2 and 10, moreover, at least one fixation tool is configured to fix at least one of: the first projecting member to the first recess portion, and the second projecting member to the second recess portion.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 2 and 10, the image carrier unit and the developer unit are aligned with each other by moving with respect to each other in a longitudinal direction thereof to engage the first and second projecting members with the first and second recess portions. See Figs. 4 and 5.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest the above described structure for aligning the image carrier unit and the developer unit as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 2 and new independent claim 10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 2 and new independent claim 10, as well as each of amended claims 3-5 and new claims 6-9 and 11-16, respectively depending therefrom,

clearly patentably distinguishes over Hosokawa et al, Watanabe et al and Matsuzaki et al, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Fig. 1 has been amended to change the lower occurrence of reference numeral 1 to "11" in accordance with the disclosure in the specification at page 9, line 7.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
 Replacement Sheet

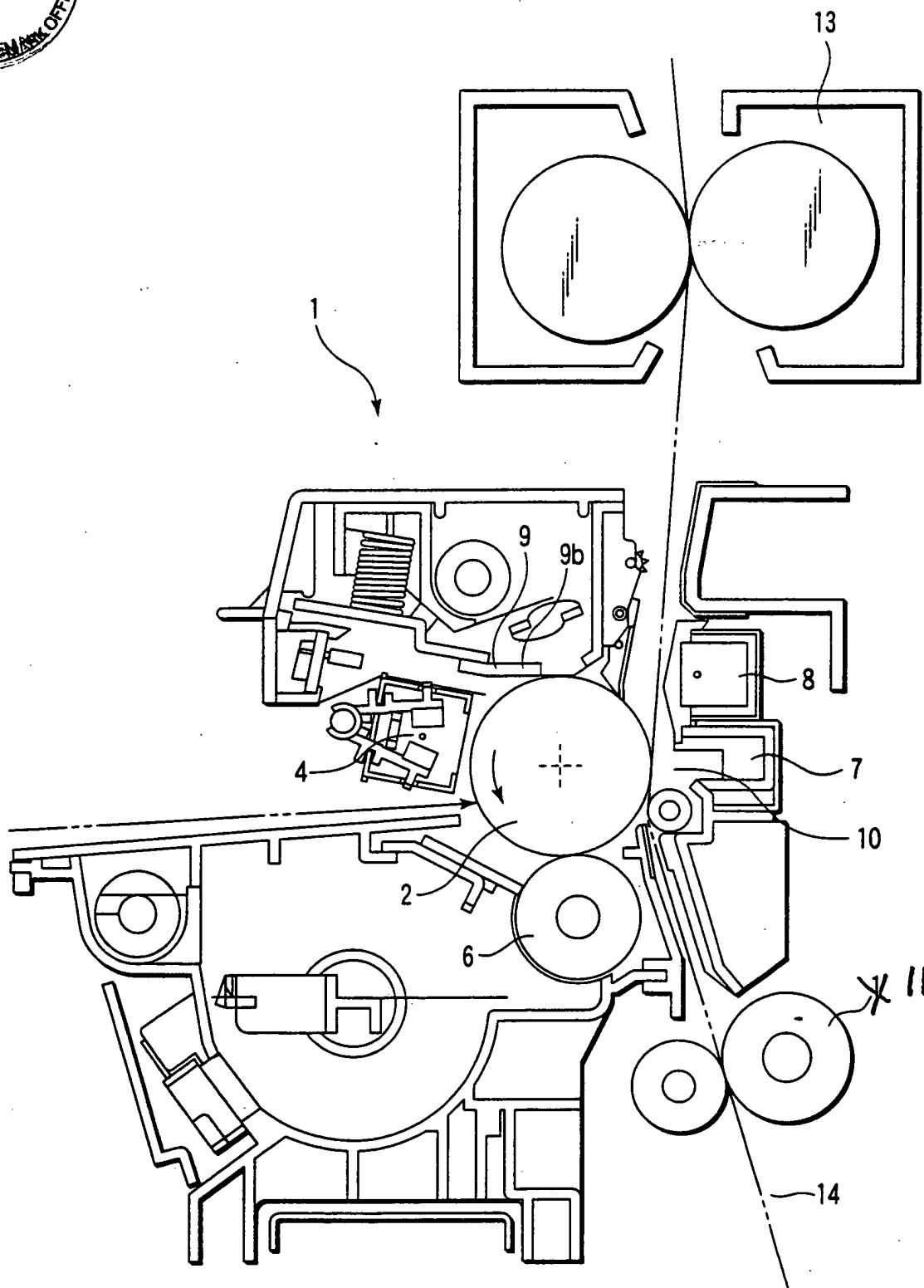


FIG. 1